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From: Thomas, Nancy
Sent: 2018-03-13T07:56:49-04:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: ACTION REQUIRED! Fwd: GAO Draft FOIA Compliance Report (GAO-18-365)
Received: 2018-03-13T07:57:02-04:00
[Draft GAO-18-365.pdf](#)

Good Morning!
ACTION REQUIRED!

Attached is the draft report from GAO on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) in response a request from the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, and Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on the Constitution.

GAO reviewed 18 selected federal agencies' compliance with FOIA requirements. FOIA requires federal agencies to provide the public with access to government records and information based on the principles of openness and accountability in government.

GAO issues recommendations to selected agencies, including three to the Department of the Interior, to ensure the FOIA tracking system is compliant with Section 508 requirements, to provide frequently requested records online, and to take steps to develop and document a plan that fully addresses best practices with regards to reduction of backlogged FOIA requests.

Kindly review the draft report and let me know if you have any comments. The Departments comments are due by April 12, 2018 which should specify whether we concur or not to GAO's recommendations. To ensure timely departmental review and surname, I request that a draft response be shared with me by COB March 23, 2018.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks

Nancy Thomas

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lawrence, Anjalique J** <LawrenceAJ@gao.gov>

Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2018 at 6:14 PM

Subject: GAO Draft FOIA Compliance Report (GAO-18-365)

To: "nancy_thomas@ios.doi.gov" <nancy_thomas@ios.doi.gov>,

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"cindy_cafaro@ios.doi.gov" <cindy_cafaro@ios.doi.gov>

March 12, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke

Secretary of Interior

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Attached is a copy of our proposed report entitled ***Freedom of Information Act: Agencies Are Implementing Requirements but Additional Actions Are Needed*** (GAO-18-365). We are providing this draft for your review and comment before the report is issued. Our work was done under engagement code 101411.

We would like to obtain the department's written or oral comments from you or your designated representative by **April 12, 2018**. These comments will be reflected in the final report. We prefer written comments and request that the written comments be provided electronically. However, we will accept comments provided in hard copy, orally, or in an unsigned e-mail message. Please direct all comments and any questions you may have concerning this draft to Anjalique Lawrence, Assistant Director, (202) 512-6308 or lawrenceaj@gao.gov.

This draft has not been fully reviewed within GAO, is subject to change, and must be safeguarded to prevent its improper disclosure. Please do not show or release its contents for any purpose. All drafts remain the property of GAO. Upon request, all electronic copies of drafts must be destroyed and any hard copies of drafts must be returned. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

[signed]

David A. Powner

Director, Information Technology Management Issues